



County Corner

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Flathead County Libraries

The thirty-eight staff and nearly seventy volunteers of the Flathead County Library System serve the Flathead from 5 unique community branches: Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Marion, Whitefish, and the Main Library in Kalispell.

"I have to return my books" is no longer the only reason people stop by the Library. Today's public libraries are a community destination where people gather to enjoy a movie,



The friendly, helpful staff of the Flathead County Libraries.

Director, Flathead County Libraries KIM CROWLEY



Kim Crowley was hired as Library Director in 2004. She brings 13 years of library experience, a commitment to public service, and a passion for libraries as the center of the community. Crowley received her BA in English from the University of Montana, and her Masters in Information and Library Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is active in Flathead on the Move, Leadership Flathead, American Association of University Women, and library technology and resource sharing issues throughout the State. She enjoys anything outdoors and attends the Telluride Film Festival each year, where she spends a lot of time in dark movie theatres.

attend a storytime, see a play, listen to a lecture, and use our meeting rooms for everything from rock hounding to knitting circles to book clubs. At the Whitefish Branch, young readers can even "Read to Rover," with friendly dogs that don't judge or correct pronunciation. At the Main Library, a teen advisory group meets monthly to recommend books, music, and DVDs, as well as to share ideas on teen services at the libraries. Last year alone there were more than 424,000 visits to our Flathead County Libraries.

We offer computer classes as well as public Internet stations and wireless Internet access at all branches. One of our regular customers is a 68 year old woman whose daughter is stationed on a Coast Guard ship. She visits the Library a few times a week and uses the Internet to keep in touch with her daughter.

Books, videos, and music CDs are still a major focus of our library, of course. Last year we checked out 462,699 items. Many people use the new arrivals lists on our website HYPERLINK "<http://www.flatheadcountylibrary.org>" www.flatheadcountylibrary.org to search out interesting titles and place them on hold. Our friendly, knowledgeable librarians will access both online and traditional resources to help you compose a resume, find the right college, create a business plan, purchase a car, select appropriate plants to put in your landscape, research your family history, or simply find a good video for the weekend.

Customers are our reason for being. We hope you will soon visit one of your Flathead County Libraries to see what a 21st century public library has to offer.

"The needs of the future take precedence over the demands of the present."

— County Commissioners: Bob Watne, Gary Hall & Joe Brenneman